T/N note: Arashi's name means "storm" while Shizuka's name means "quiet." The two "puppetmasters" of this story are android twins.

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Futago Scans
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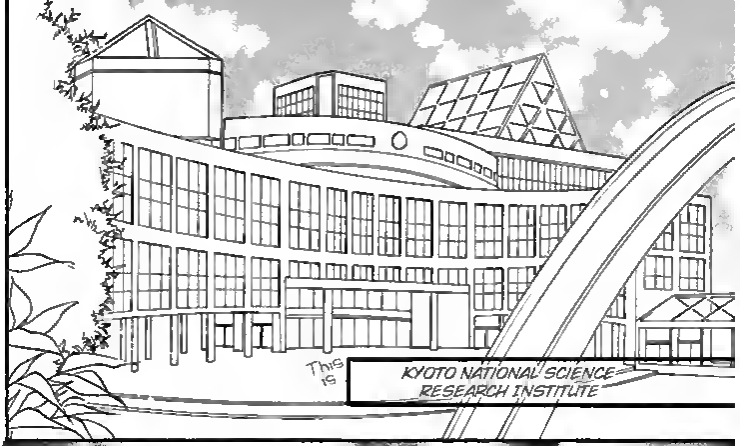
Ningyou Shibai
CHAPTER 6

I'M MARK II BENTZ, NICE TO MEET YOU
SO MANY BEAUTIFUL LADIES ARE CROWDING AROUND
I AM THE WORK OF THE PROFESSOR CALLED MINAMI SOUNOSUKE. DIDN'T YOU KNOW TO WHERE?
LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF MASTER SHIZUKA, STRONGLY, TO UNDERSTAND

THE PROFESSOR MELTED THE PROGRAM LANGUAGE FLOPPY...
OH...
YOU MADE SHIZUKA-KUN... THIS ROBOT...
TO BE HONEST, THE INPUT IS MINE...
THAT BIG PERSON
WHERE IS HE?
JUST ONE WORD...
.....
KYAA
SWAP
SON OF A BITCH



IT IS THE YEAR 27XX. THIS IS THE CUTTING EDGE OF MODERN JAPANESE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY.

HIGH TECH ATOMIC ENERGY, MODERN ENGINEERING AND ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, ROBOTICS ENGINEERING, ETC. ETC.

MEDICINE, PHARMACEUTICS, MENTAL HEALTH, BIOTECHNOLOGY, ETC. NOT TO MENTION LIFE SCIENCE

FROM EARTH SCIENCE, SPACE SCIENCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE...

THE VERY BEST ENGINEERS AND RESEARCHERS IN THE COUNTRY HAVE GATHERED AT THIS INSTITUTE TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES TO THE AFOREMENTIONED.

AND THEN, HERE, THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, COGNITIVE SCIENCE SECTION, INTELLIGENT SYSTEM STUDY...

That was long

This fake researcher!
It's simple.
THAT IS TO SAY, IT IS THE STUDY OF MAKING ROBOTS AS CLOSE TO HUMANS AS POSSIBLE.
It's part of the brain.
INTELLIGENT AI STUDY CONNECTS THESE...
THAT IS ONE PART OF COMPUTER SCIENCE. LIVING HUMAN BODIES, COGNIZANCE, BEHAVIOR, THOUGHTS, WORDS, EMOTIONS, ETC. FROM THE STUDY OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE.
COGNITIVE SCIENCE SECTION INTELLIGENT SYSTEM STUDY...
GET OVER HERE, SOUNO-SUKE!!!
I'M HERE...
IN HERE,
IS THAT PROJECT
sfx=BAM

IT'S DELICIOUS!!
IT IS!?
WHAT IS THIS, PROFESSOR MINAMI? IS THIS
SOUP?
yay yay
SOME FOR YOU,
AND YOU,
AND YOU!
I ate it at last month's national culture museum's party.
THE FLAVOR OF MISO SOUP!
I BROUGHT IT HERE!!!
Plus, is cooking part of your job?
WHAT KIND OF CONDUCT IS THIS?
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
But it was not to be.

WORK!!!
THUD
Pink-chan?
Yes
So,
WORK, WORK,
IS IT FROM THE REGULAR MEETING?
THE PROBLEM WITH THE TRANSMISSION METHOD IS CAUSED BY THIS RUDE GUY
YOUR INPUT ISN'T CONVEYED IN CLEAR LANGUAGE. THAT'S THE ONLY PROBLEM!
ahahaha, this is ridiculous
Sigh
TIME'S UP FOR YOUR SCOLDING!
THIS TIME,
EVERY DAY, IT'S SO COMPLICATED!
JUST STOP ALREADY!
He's angry
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SAY THAT WITH TRACES OF TEARS!
Hearing afterwards
Was exposed
So,
BECAUSE YOU LIKE THEM, I'LL MAKE LOTS OF SPICY FOODS.
TONIGHT AT 8!
I'LL DEFINITELY RETURN TO OUR ROOM!
Oh
Hum
THIS WILL FIX YOUR BAD MOOD, DARLING!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING DARLING?
Adieu!
SLAM

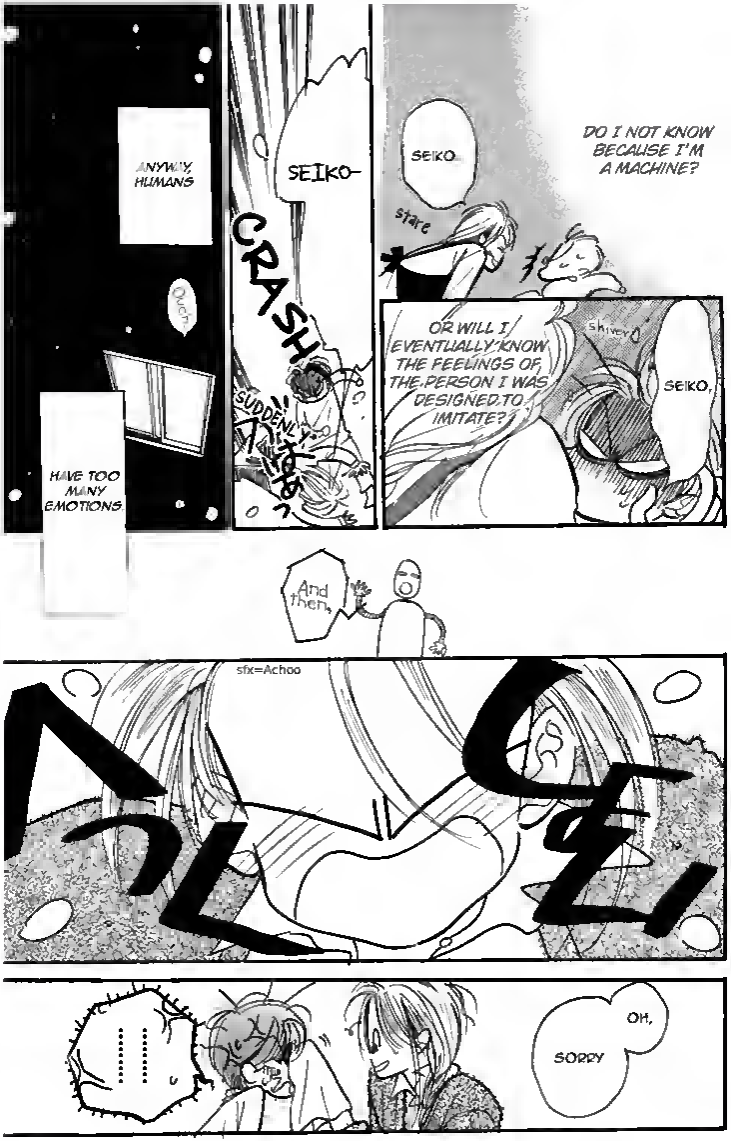
A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, THE ROBOTICS ENGINEERING SECTION SUGGESTED THIS COOPERATIVE STUDY
THIS PROJECT WAS DESCRIBED AS
THE "ROBOTS WITH HEARTS" MANUFACTURING PROJECT.
Okay, the professor's meal
THE PLANNER OF THIS JOKE PROJECT IS DR. MINAMI SOUNOSUKE (29).
IT WEARS ME OUT.
GETTING ANGRY
INHUMAN-KIND. EVERY-ONE'S BROTHERS PROJECT.
WHAT A PAIN!
GETTING INVOLVED WITH PEOPLE, HAVING KNOWLEDGE, A WIDE DIFFERENCE OF FEELINGS, AND A STUDY FUNCTION.
He has that irritating hair, too!
He even makes kinpira sweet!
They won't let it get used to him.
I won't allow sweet kinpira!
But he shouldn't do it!!
That guy has a sweet tooth.
ANDROIDS WITH FEELINGS, PREFERENCES, INDIVIDUAL ETHICS, AND TASTES.
BUT SHIZUKA-KUN,
YOU REALLY LOOK JUST LIKE SEIKO-SAN.
I AM THAT SECOND PROTOTYPE.

DR KAGATA SEIKO
YOU'RE ESPECIALLY LIKE HER WHEN YOU'RE SCOLDING THE PROFESSOR
WAS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT WITH SOUNOSUKE SHE HAD AUTHORITY OVER ROBOTICS ENGINEERING
SHE'S THE ONE I'M MODELED AFTER?
HALF A YEAR AGO, I HAD JUST WOKEN UP IN THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
RIGHT,
SHIZUKA-KUN'S THOUGHT PATTERNS AND BEHAVIOR PATTERNS...
THIS PROGRAM'S DEVELOPMENT CAME
AND YOUR PERSONALITY MODEL
FROM THE MUTUAL STUDY OF DR MINAMI AND SEIKO-SAN FROM THE TIME THEY WERE IN GRADUATE SCHOOL, SO...
SUCH A COOL PERSON,
BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, SO CHIC.
JUST...
JUST?
WITH DR MINAMI, SHE WAS LIKE THE STRAIGHT MAN IN A COMEDY DUO!!!
THESE DAYS,
WHERE IS SHE, ANYWAY?
KAGATA SEIKO IS...
sfxzAhahahahaha!

MINAMI SOUNO-SUKE'S LOVER
WHAT'S CAUSING THAT SCARY EXPRES-SION?
Is it bad?
YOU SKIPPED IT, RIGHT?
What? This is good
THE REGULAR MEETING
I looked for ingre-dients at the market
.....
Well,
YOU'VE FOUND OUT
munch
THE IMPORTANT THINGS HAPPEN AFTER THE ASSEMBLY AND OBJECTION BELLS!
BUT,
WHERE DID YOU GO?
munch
I LIKE THESE TIMES THE BEST
EATING WITH SOMEONE ELSE MAKES DINNER DELICIOUS, DOESN'T IT?

AH,
THE COLD FEELS NICE
YOUR FEELINGS ARE THE PROBLEM
IT'S HOT
So spicy
THAT IS HIS FAVORITE PHRASE.
DOES THIS TASTE DIFFERENT?
Yum
WHAT A NICE BREEZE
IT FEELS NICE
BUT, IRRITATING AND RUDE
"JUST LIKE A GOLDEN HEAD OF RICE."
DESPITE THAT SHE WAS AMAZINGLY POPULAR
YUCK
IRRITATING HAIR!!!
IT'S CUTTING ME!
THAT'S RUDE!
Yeah
WHOOSH
Ah!

SEIKO DESIGNED FROM THIS PLACE EARLIER NO ONE KNEW THE REASON
BUT SHE LEFT
EVERY-ONE IN THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE KNEW
AREN'T I DIFFER-ENT FROM HER?
DOESN'T SHE SAY THE MOST POETIC THINGS?
EVEN THOUGH
YOU DON'T KNOW HER
WERE THOSE
DR. KABATA SEIKO'S WORDS?
THAT SHE WOULD NOT STOP TEACHING
I ONLY THOUGHT...
I DIDN'T SAY
IF HE'S LONELY AND TRIES TO FOLLOW HER
...EVEN SO IT WOULD BE GOOD TO RESTRAIN HIM
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW THE REASON THEY PARTED
IT PROBABLY WASN'T LOGICAL
THAT'S COLD, SHIZUKA-KUN
I'M LONELY
WELL?


ANYWAY, HUMANS
Ouch!
HAVE TOO MANY EMOTIONS
SEIKO-
CRASH
SUDDENLY
SEIKO
stare
DO I NOT KNOW BECAUSE I'M A MACHINE?
OR WILL I EVENTUALLY KNOW THE FEELINGS OF THE PERSON I WAS DESIGNED TO IMITATE?
Shiver
SEIKO,
And then,
sfx=Achoo
ACHOO
OH, SORRY

WILL I CATCH A COLD?
YOU CAN.
I want to eat rice gruel
cough cough
sneeze
THE WIND IS COLD TODAY
THAT'S WHY I CAUGHT A COLD
I'll make rice gruel
Yes
A HIGH EFFICIENCY VIRUS THE BODY'S SENSOR, INNER AND AND OUTER WARMTH MEASUREMENT DURING THAT TIME
I'm okay!
ARE YOU OKAY?
clatter
CLATTER
KYAA!!

.....
HE HAS SEIKO'S SENSE OF MORALITY
YOU CAN'T MAKE IT FOR ME IN THAT STATE
THERE'S NO REASON TO LET A SICK PERSON DO THIS
IT'S OKAY PLEASE GO TO SLEEP
HON-ESTLY
EASY COOKING
AS I THOUGHT, YOU HURT YOUR-SELF
POI
LEAVE IT ALL TO ME
I WANT YOU TO HELP RX
WELL PLEASE DO IT
Mark II, Benz
clink
clink
I'LL DO IT
THAT BIG IDIOT CAN'T DO IT, SO
whoosh
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
step
STOP FUSSING!
tap
tap
clatter
clatter

munch munch
WHY!?
I MADE IT FOLLOWING THE RECIPE, BUT
IT'S BAD.
I CAN'T EAT THE FOOD YOU MAKE
IS IT BAD?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, EX?
SLUMP

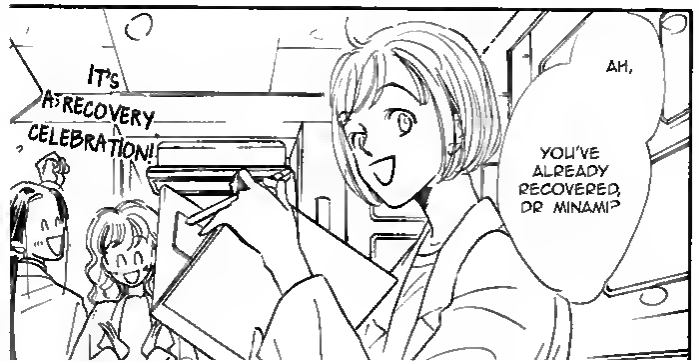
sigh
IT HURTS
IT HURTS?
DINNER?
.....
HUMANS
HAVE FEELINGS THAT HINDER THEM...
IT'S IRRITATING
ANGER AND LAUGHTER AND LONELINESS AND COLD AND BAD TASTING AND IRRITATION AND PAIN!
THUMP
AH...

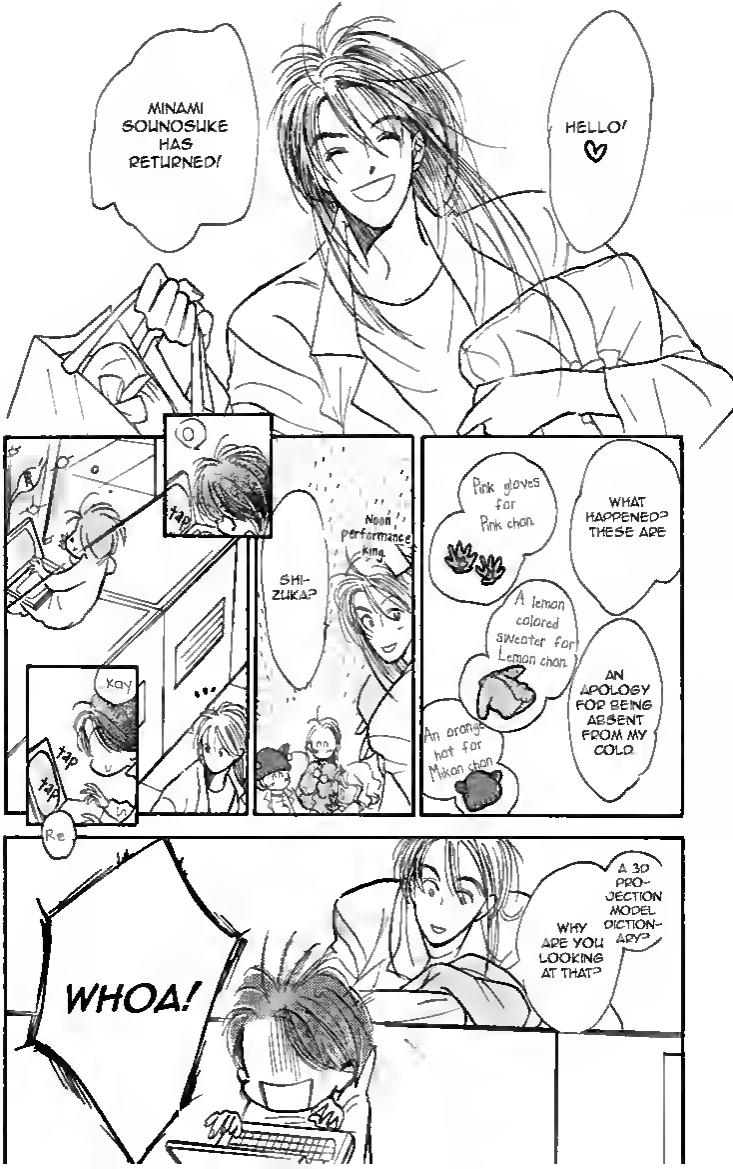
IT'S WARM.
IT FEELS NICE...
THE SUN IS COMING OUT
YEAH
AH.

WHAT IS AN "ANDROID?"
IT FEELS NICE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, WHEN YOU SEE DR. MINAMI'S HAIR?
UM...
EX...
WHAT IS IT?

HIS HAIR IS BLOND
IT'S LONGER THAN MASTER'S
WHAT YOU CALL SEEING
IS WHAT I CALL ANALYSIS
empty
WAIT...
DID THE PROFESSOR EAT THIS?!!
sfx=clatter
sfx=footsteps

YEAH
HE IS ASLEEP
GOLDEN HEAD OF RICE..?


IT'S A RECOVERY CELEBRATION!
AH,
YOU'VE ALREADY RECOVERED, DR MINAMI?


MINAMI SOUNOSUKE HAS RETURNED!
HELLO!
Q
tap
SHI-ZUKA?
Noon performance king
Pink gloves for Pink chan
WHAT HAPPENED? THESE ARE
A lemon colored sweater for Lemon chan
AN APOLOGY FOR BEING ABSENT FROM MY COLD
An orange hat for Mikan chan
kay
tap
tap
Re
WHOA!
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THAT?
A 3D PROJECTION MODEL DICTIONARY?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, PROFESSOR!?
I APOLOGIZED TO EVERYONE ELSE BUT I DIDN'T THANK YOU
HUH?
THANKS FOR NURSING ME BACK TO HEALTH!
AH
LOVE
Does it convey my love?
THE PROFESSOR RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
IT SAID THE REQUESTED ITEMS WERE SENT
THEY'RE STILL LIKE THAT!
THEY CAN'T BE LONELY FOR EVEN ONE DAY
AH,

I'LL BE HUNGRY, SO WAIT FOR ME, DARLING
I'LL COME HOME AT DINNER SO DON'T WORRY!
DO YOUR BEST
LATER
WORK!
I'M LEAVING FOR A BIT
SEE YOU LATER!
Déjà vu
Adieu!
huff...
huff
YES, HE'S DR MINAMI'S FOSTER FATHER
PROFES-SOR MINAMI'S FORMER TEACHER
IS THIS ABOUT GRADUATE SCHOOL?
WHEN HE WAS A SMALL CHILD, DR MINAMI'S RELATIVES
ALL PASSED AWAY DURING AN ACCIDENT ON A FAMILY VACATION...
FOS-TER?
OH.
NO ONE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT
HUH?

HOW...
THE PROFESSOR'S FATHER HAD A CLOSE FRIEND
THIS UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
WHO TOOK CHARGE OF HIM WAS A BACHELOR
IN THEIR STUDIES, TOO, THE PROFESSOR AND HIS FORMER TEACHER WERE OF THE SAME MIND
HOW COULD HE
HOW?
HOW...
How?
Leave me in the dark

THEY WON'T REFUSE.
THE ASSISTANT GIRLS WILL NURSE YOU TONIGHT,
ISN'T THAT GOOD, MASTER?
AFTERNOON NINE HOURS AND FORTY-NINE MINUTES.
Pon
Pon
Pon
IT WILL BE EIGHT HOURS...
UNTIL THE PROFESSOR RETURNS.
cough
THEY ALL HAVE TO WORK SO...
I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE THEM.
cough
THE ASSISTANT GIRLS COULD MAKE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.
COUGH
cough

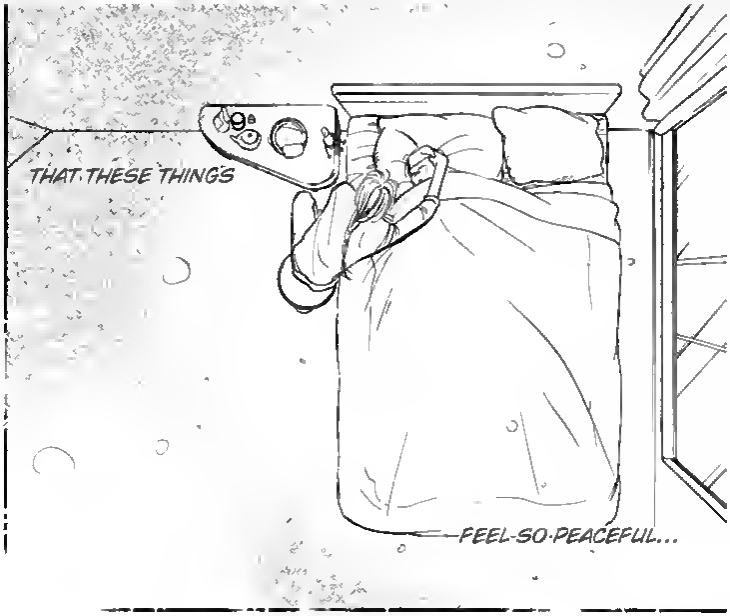
silence
NO
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S GOTTEN COLD
"EATING WITH SOMEONE ELSE MAKES DINNER DELICIOUS, DOESN'T IT?"

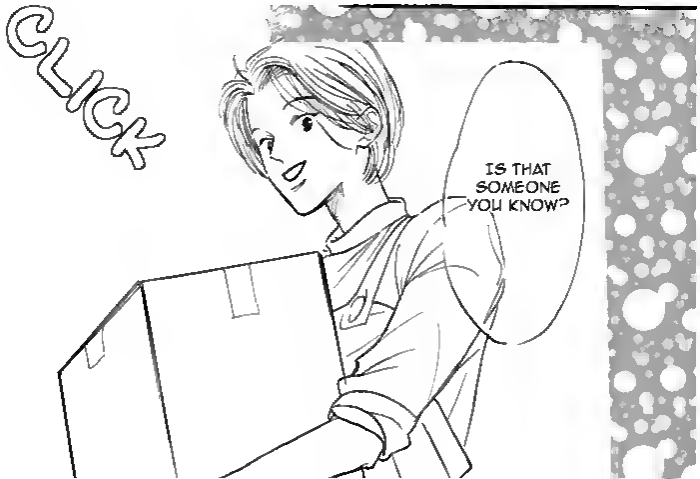
IT'S TOO QUIET IN THIS ROOM. IT'S OUT OF BALANCE
SINCE THAT GUY IS ALWAYS SO NOISY.
IT ISN'T GOOD.
cough
cough
cough
cough
cough
THE CLOCK
SO LOUD.
cough

ONLY BECAUSE IT'S COLD
suddenly
cough
THUD
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT HERE,
THESE FEELINGS...
Sauna sukeru

BAM
I'M SORRY
FOR BEING LATE.

"GOLDEN HEAD OF RICE..." I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF PERSON WOULD CALL YOU THAT.
SORRY MY TEACHER KEPT ME... WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER AT THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SHIZUKA, DO YOU HAVE A COLD?
WELL, WHY IS IT?
—Shiver
YOU HAVE A FEVER
DO YOU WANT SOMETHING TO EAT?
WHY IS IT?


THAT THESE THINGS
FEEL SO PEACEFUL...


CLICK
IS THAT SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

DR SEIKO...
CLICK
CL
RIGHT
THE TEACHER WENT TO SEIKO'S NEW ADDRESS
She had to move
THIS PHOTO DISK WAS THE "REQUESTED ITEM"?
AFTER SHE RESIGNED FROM THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS HAPPENED MY FORMER TEACHER'S TEACHER HELPED HER OUT
SEIKO WANTED TO DO EVERYTHING ALONE
BUT HE TOLD HER ANGRILY "IT'S POINTLESS TO TRY TO REFUSE OUT OF COURTESY"
CLICK

grin
grin
SEIKO'S COURTESY?
.....
YOU SAY SOME HARSH THINGS...
"FROM MY HANDS
THERE IS NOTHING I WOULDN'T LEND TO HER,"
Eh?
SAID THE PROFESSOR WITH A SMALL, LONELY SMILE
IF SHE HAD OFFERED TO HELP HIM,
HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE ACCEPTED IT.
If possible
IT'S OKAY.
LOOK
CLICK

NO.
IS THAT A CHILD?
MY RELATIVES LEFT BEHIND PROPERTY AND INSURANCE MONEY ON ALL THE PROPERTY
WITH THAT, I BOUGHT HIM FROM THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
ARASHI...
"THE PROPERTY RIGHTS ARE NO LONGER MINE"
AND FORCED HIM ON SEIKO
DOES HE LOOK LIKE ME?
I'M THE MODEL
IT'S AN ANDROID
PROTOTYPE
WHAT IS HIS NAME?
ARASHI

"THE REASON I COULD NOT GO WITH YOU..."
DESPITE THOSE THINGS,
"IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT HIM,
HE'LL ONLY BECOME SCRAP."
SO
SHE TOOK HIM WITH HER
THE HAPPINESS OF THE LAUGHING PEOPLE IN THE PHOTO DISK.
SEEING THAT
MADE HIM SMILE WITH HAPPINESS FROM HIS HEART.
AND STILL,
I WAS CONTENT.

IF HE'S ABLE TO MAKE THAT KIND OF FACE
WITH YOU AS WELL
AND HAVE FEELINGS OF LOVE TOO,
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH HE MIGHT HAVE NEVER KNOWN SUCH BAD THINGS.
WITH THE FEELINGS I HAVE AS AN ANDROID,
I CAN ONLY MAKE THAT KIND OF FACE WHEN THERE REALLY IS NOTHING BAD.

THERE'S NOTHING BAD.
THE FAMILY PASSING AWAY,
IN WHAT HAD UNTIL THEN BEEN A BUSTLING HOUSE
UNTIL TEACHER TOOK CHARGE OF ME,
I ATE ALONE EVERY DAY.
IS THAT
THE REASON FOR THE EXISTENCE OF ANDROIDS

A LONELY PERSON...
SHI-ZUKA?
OUCH!
WHOA
GOLDEN HEAD OF RICE...
LOOK,
?
WHAT A WEIRD GUY
THERE'S NOTHING BAD...
NINGYOUSHIBAI CHAPTER 6 / END

love
love
love